

INCOMING AIRGRAM

Department of State

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

MAAG has recommended to CINCPAC U.S. patrol of Vietnamese territorial waters from 10 miles south of 17th Parallel and extending 8 to 30 miles from Vietnamese coast. Patrol location would be flexible and would be shifted to other areas South China Sea, including vicinity of Paracels, as may appear appropriate on basis results from initial patrols and/or intelligence obtained.

MAAG has informed Embassy, however, that patrolling within 3 mile limit of Paracels is neither intended nor necessary as patrol radar can give good coverage up to at least 8 miles. Accordingly, no political problem re Paracels should arise in connection with U.S. patrolling.

HOLTING

Cleared: MAAG - Col. Clarin
(in substance)POL:AJFink/
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